

Appl. No. : 10/614,650
Filed : July 7, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully contend that the application has been placed in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection is Resolved by Terminal Disclaimer

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 8-10 and 16-17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,589,269. Applicants herewith file a Terminal Disclaimer, and this rejection is thus overcome.

Allowable Claims Rewritten into Independent Form

The Examiner objected to Claims 11-15 and 19-20, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Further, Claims 10 and 16 were rejected only due to double patenting, and thus are allowable now that the Terminal Disclaimer has been filed.

Applicants have rewritten Claims 10, 11 and 16 into independent form, and amended Claims 2-6 and 8-9 to depend from now-allowable Claim 10. Claims 12-15 depend from now-allowable Claim 11, and Claims 17-20 depend from now-allowable Claim 16. As such, all of Claims 2-6 and 8-20 are currently in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Applicants have added new Claims 21-27 to more fully recite the subject matter Applicants consider to be the invention. Claims 21 and 25 are independent claims from which Claims 22-24 and 26-27 depend. All of the new claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

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The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections and objections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/14/05

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AMEND
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